

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07

NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01

SAM-01 OMB-01 AGRE-00 STRE-00 EA-07 /070 W

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4015

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 9677

DEPT. ALSO PASS STR FOR AMB. DENT

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD

SUBJ: TEXTILES: MFA RENEWAL

REF: MORRIS/PHELAN/SMITH TELECON DECEMBER 6

1. AT REQUEST OF USEC BRUSSELS, FOLLOWING IS SUBMITTED
FOR USE AS TALKING POINTS WITH EC OFFICIALS:

2. THERE IS DEVELOPING A CONSENSUS HERE SHARED INVARYING
DEGREES OF ENTHUSIASM BY ALL COUNTRIES EXCEPT THE COM-
MUNITY TOWARD THE FOLLOWING POSITION: THE MFA WHILE
IMPERFECT MERITS EXTENSION AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE MOMENT
WITHOUT FORMAL REPEAT FORMAL AMENDMENT. INDEED, THE LDC
PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES AND THE USG ARE PREPARED TO EXTEND
THE MFA NOW (THE PERIOD OF EXTENSION YET TO BE DETERMINED).
MOST PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES BELIEVE THAT WHATEVER QUOTE
IMPROVEMENTS UNQUOTE ARE DESIRABLE OR NECESSARY CAN BE
ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH PROCEDURAL CHANGES SUCH AS MORE
FREQUENT TEXTILE COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND THROUGH BILATERAL
NEGOTIATIONS UNDER THE MFA UMBRELLA. THE NORDICS,
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CANADIANS, AND AUSTRALIANS HAVE PRIVATELY STATED TO LONG

THAT THEY WOULD NOT BLOCK SUCH A CONSENSUS, AND WE BELIEVE THE JAPANESE WOULD LIKEWISE GO ALONG. HOWEVER, THE EC (MEYNELL) TOLD LONG AT MEETING WITH IMPORTING COUNTRIES THAT EC WOULD QUOTE BE BOUND TO OBJECT UNQUOTE TO THE CHAIR MAKING SUCH A STATEMENT OF POSITION.

3. WHAT WE SEEK FROM THE EC IS ITS WILLINGNESS NOT RPT NOT TO BLOCK THAT CONSENSUS. WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE EC HAS INTERNAL PROBLEMS WHICH MAKE ENDORSEMENT OF THIS CONSENSUS DIFFICULT. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE FORMAL AMENDMENTS TO THE MFA OF THE RESTRICTIVE SORT THE EC HAS INDICATED IT FAVORS ARE SIMPLY IN THE CARDS. FURTHERMORE WE BELIEVE WE HAVE SUCCEEDED IN LIMITING THE LDC MFA DEMANDS TO SIMPLE RENEWAL WITHOUT FORMAL AMENDMENTS, A POSITION WHICH IS CONTINGENT UPON IMPORTING COUNTRIES ALSO NOT RPT NOT INSISTING ON FORMAL AMENDMENTS. HOW LONG THAT LDC POSITION CAN BE SUSTAINED IS VERY QUESTIONABLE. MOREOVER, ABILITY OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES OTHER THAN EC TO HOLD BACK PROTECTIONIST PRESSURES OF THEIR INDUSTRIES MAY ALSO HAVE A SHORT LIFE.

4. IN SUM, WE THINK WE NOW HAVE THE BEST CHANCE WE MAY EVER HAVE TO PREVENT DISORDER IN INTERNATIONAL TEXTILE TRADE. WE DON'T THINK THE EC WANTS TO PROVOKE A BREAKDOWN OF INTERNATIONAL TEXTILE COOPERATION ANY MORE THAN WE DO. WE ARE NOT RPT NOT ASKING THAT THE EC ENDORSE THIS CONSENSUS, BUT WE ARE ASKING THAT THE EC NOT BLOCK A SUMMARY STATEMENT BY THE TC CHAIRMAN THAT A CONSENSUS HAS BEEN REACHED THAT THE MFA IS TO BE EXTENDED EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 1978, WITH POSSIBLE PROCEDURAL CHANGES TO BE DISCUSSED IN SUBSEQUENT TC MEETING EARLY IN 1977.CATTO

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